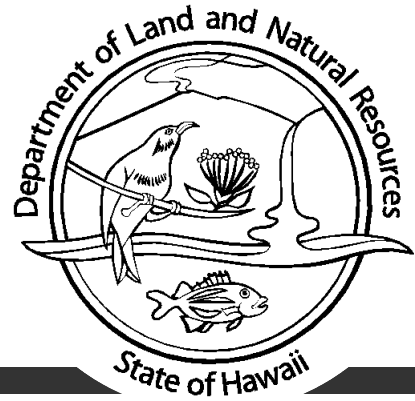


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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **DLNR CONDEMNS 70 LINEAR FEET OF KAILUA-KONA PIER**

DLNR today announced that effective immediately, a 70 foot, linear section of Kailua-Kona pier will be closed for public and commercial use. The decision was made after contract engineers determined the section to be undermined and unsafe for use.

The determination was made after two scuba-diving inspections confirmed that the substrate support underneath the pier has been eroded from years of winter storms and swells and is no longer able to safely support the 70'x15' section of the south side of the pier.

The Kailua-Kona pier was built over fifty years ago as a cattle transfer station. It is in poor condition and in need of millions of dollars of repairs. The pier was transferred from the State Department of Transportation, Harbors Division to the DLNR Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation in 1994. Following the transfer, DLNR has spent approximately \$225,000 on repairs to the facility.

This year, Governor Ben Cayetano submitted a \$3 million supplemental budget request to the State Legislature to fund a complete retrofit of the pier. The funds are still under consideration by the House and Senate.

Separately, in response to the closure, the Governor yesterday redirected and released \$800,000 in CIP funding for immediate repairs to the pier. The funds had been previously appropriated by the Legislature for planning and design work at the popular pier.

DLNR Boating officials are meeting with affected pier users to consider alternate ways to continue boating operations until the section is repaired. As necessary, boating activities in the area will be redirected by the end of the week.

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